

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION**

STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,)
Plaintiff,) Civil Case No. _____
v.)
JOHN DOE infringer identified as using IP)
address 98.204.8.160,)
Defendant.)

**COMPLAINT-ACTION FOR DAMAGES FOR
PROPERTY RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC (“Strike 3” or “Plaintiff”), brings this Complaint against Defendant John Doe infringer identified as using IP address 98.204.8.160 (“Defendant”), and alleges as follows:

Introduction

1. This is a case about the ongoing and wholesale copyright infringement of Plaintiff's motion pictures by Defendant, who is referred to at this point as "John Doe." Plaintiff is aware of Defendant's identity, but has filed this suit against them pseudonymously and will file a motion to permit Defendant to litigate this case pseudonymously through discovery.

2. Plaintiff is the owner of award winning, critically acclaimed adult motion pictures.

3. Strike 3's motion pictures are distributed through the *Blacked*, *Tushy*, *Vixen*, and *Blacked Raw* adult websites and DVDs. With millions of visitors to its websites each month, the brands are famous for re-defining adult content, creating high-end, artistic, and performer-inspiring motion pictures produced with a Hollywood style budget and quality.

4. Defendant is an egregious infringer of Plaintiff's registered copyrights and has been

documented infringing 95 Works over an extended period of time. Defendant has used the BitTorrent protocol to affect this rampant and wholesale copyright infringement. Defendant not only has downloaded Plaintiff's motion pictures, but they have also distributed them to others.

5. Although Defendant attempted to hide this theft by infringing Plaintiff's content anonymously, a Florida state court order permitted Plaintiff to serve a subpoena on their Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), Comcast Cable ("Comcast"), to discover the identity of the subscriber assigned IP address 98.204.8.160, the IP address Defendant used to download and share Plaintiff's works.

6. Based on Plaintiff's investigation of the subscriber and publicly available resources, Plaintiff identified Defendant as the true infringer.

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This is a civil action seeking damages under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the "Copyright Act").

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (jurisdiction over copyright actions).

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant used an Internet Protocol address ("IP address") traced to a physical address located within this District to commit copyright infringement. Therefore: (i) Defendant committed the tortious conduct alleged in this Complaint in this State; and, (ii) Defendant resides in this State and/or; (iii) Defendant has engaged in substantial – and not isolated – business activity in this State.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), venue is proper in this district because: (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District; and, (ii) the Defendant resides (and therefore can be found) in this District and resides in this State.

Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) (venue for copyright cases) because Defendant resides or may be found in this District.

Parties

11. Strike 3 is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2140 S. Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE.

12. Defendant John Doe infringer identified as using IP address 98.204.8.160 is [REDACTED], an individual currently residing at [REDACTED], Dumfries, VA.

Factual Background

Plaintiff's Award-Winning Copyrights

13. Strike 3's subscription-based websites proudly boast a paid subscriber base that is one of the highest of any adult-content sites in the world. Strike 3 also licenses its motion pictures to popular broadcasters and Strike 3's motion pictures are the number one selling adult DVDs in the United States.

14. Strike 3's motion pictures and websites have won numerous awards, such as "best cinematography," "best new studio," and "adult site of the year."

15. Strike 3's motion pictures have had positive global impact, leading more adult studios to invest in better content, higher pay for performers, and to treat each performer with respect and like an artist.

16. Unfortunately, Strike 3, like a large number of other makers of motion picture and television works, has a major problem with Internet piracy. Often appearing among the most infringed popular entertainment content on torrent websites, Strike 3's motion pictures are among the most pirated content in the world.

Defendant Used the BitTorrent File Distribution Network to Infringe Plaintiff's Copyrights

17. BitTorrent is a system designed to quickly distribute large files over the Internet. Instead of downloading a file, such as a movie, from a single source, BitTorrent users are able to connect to the computers of other BitTorrent users in order to simultaneously download and upload pieces of the file from and to other users.

18. BitTorrent's popularity stems from the ability of users to directly interact with each other to distribute a large file without creating a heavy load on any individual source computer and/or network. It enables Plaintiff's motion pictures, which are often filmed in state of the art 4kHD, to be transferred quickly and efficiently.

19. To share a movie within the BitTorrent network, a user first uses BitTorrent software to create a .torrent file from the original digital media file. This process breaks the original digital media file down into numerous pieces.

20. The entire movie file being shared has a hash value (*i.e.*, the "File Hash"). A hash value is an alpha-numeric value of a fixed length that uniquely identifies data.

21. Hash values are not arbitrarily assigned to data merely for identification purposes, but rather are the product of a cryptographic algorithm applied to the data itself. As such, while two identical sets of data will produce the same cryptographic hash value, any change to the underlying data – no matter how small – will change the cryptographic hash value that correlates to it.

22. To find and re-assemble the pieces of the digital media file, *i.e.*, to download the file using BitTorrent, a user must obtain the .torrent file for the specific file that has been broken down into pieces.

23. Each .torrent file contains important metadata with respect to the pieces of the file. When this data is put into the cryptographic algorithm, it results in a hash value called the "Info

Hash.”

24. The “Info Hash” is the data that the BitTorrent protocol uses to identify and locate the other pieces of the desired file (in this case, the desired file is the respective file for the infringing motion pictures that are the subject of this action) across the BitTorrent network.

25. Using the Info Hash in the metadata of a .torrent file, a user may collect all the pieces of the digital media file that correlates with the specific .torrent file.

26. Once a user downloads all of the pieces of that digital media file from other BitTorrent users, the digital media file is automatically reassembled into its original form, ready for playing.

27. Plaintiff has developed, owns, and operates an infringement detection system, named “VXN Scan.”

28. Using VXN Scan, Plaintiff discovered that Defendant used the BitTorrent file network to illegally download and distribute Plaintiff’s copyrighted motion pictures.

29. To explain, while Defendant was using the BitTorrent file distribution network, VXN Scan established direct TCP/IP connections with Defendant’s IP address.

30. VXN Scan downloaded from Defendant one or more pieces of numerous digital media files.

31. Plaintiff identified these pieces as portions of infringing copies of Strike 3’s motion pictures.

32. To explain, the VXN Scan system first searched for and obtained .torrent files claiming to be infringing copies of Plaintiff’s works, and then downloaded complete copies of the digital media files that correlate to those .torrent files.

33. Plaintiff then compared the completed digital media files to Plaintiff’s copyrighted

works to determine whether they are infringing copies of one of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.

34. The digital media files have been verified to contain a digital copy of a motion picture that is identical (or, alternatively, strikingly similar or substantially similar) to Plaintiff's corresponding original copyrighted Works.

35. VZN Scan then used the "Info Hash" value, contained within the metadata of the .torrent file correlated with a digital media file that was determined to be identical (or substantially similar) to a copyrighted work, to download a piece (or pieces) of the same digital media file from Defendant using the BitTorrent network.

36. At no point did VZN Scan upload content to any BitTorrent user. Indeed, it is incapable of doing so.

37. The VZN Scan captured transactions from Defendant sharing specific pieces of 95 digital media files that have been determined to be identical (or substantially similar) to a copyrighted work(s) that Plaintiff owns.

38. VZN Scan recorded each transaction in a PCAP file.

39. VZN Scan recorded multiple transactions in this matter.

40. For each work infringed a single transaction is listed on Exhibit A.

41. For each transaction listed, Exhibit A sets forth the Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) time and date of each transaction, along with (1) the Info Hash value obtained from the metadata of the corresponding .torrent file that formed the basis of the VZN Scan's request for data, and (2) the File Hash value of the digital media file itself.

42. Exhibit A also sets forth relevant copyright information for each work at issue: the date of publication, the date of registration, and the work's copyright registration number. In a showing of good faith, Plaintiff has intentionally omitted the title of the work from this public

filings due to the adult nature of its content, but can provide a version of Exhibit A containing the works' titles to the Court or any party upon request.

43. Thus, Defendant downloaded, copied, and distributed Plaintiff's Works without authorization.

44. Defendant's infringement was continuous and ongoing.

45. Plaintiff owns the copyrights to the Works and the Works have been registered with the United States Copyright Office.

46. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and costs under 17 U.S.C. § 501 of the United States Copyright Act.

Discovery Will Likely Show that Defendant is the Individual Who Infringed Plaintiff's Copyrighted Works

47. Although Defendant is not the subscriber of IP address 98.204.8.160, Plaintiff's investigation has determined that Defendant is the person who used this IP address to infringe on its copyrighted works.

48. In response to Plaintiff's subpoena, the ISP indicated that IP address 98.204.8.160 was assigned to a person located at the residence identified in paragraph 12 above during at least one date of infringement.

49. Defendant lived at the residence identified in paragraph 12 above during the period of infringement.

50. Plaintiff logged BitTorrent network activity emanating from IP address 98.204.8.160 involving works other than Plaintiff's copyrighted works. Collectively, this evidence is referred to as the "Additional Evidence."

51. [REDACTED].

52. [REDACTED]:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]

53. [REDACTED]:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]; and
- d. [REDACTED]

54. [REDACTED]:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]; and
- d. [REDACTED].

COUNT I

Direct Copyright Infringement

55. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-42 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

56. Plaintiff is the owner of the Works, which is an original work of authorship.

57. Defendant copied and distributed the constituent elements of Plaintiff's Works using the BitTorrent protocol.

58. At no point in time did Plaintiff authorize, permit or consent to Defendant's distribution of its Works, expressly or otherwise.

59. As a result of the foregoing, Defendant violated Plaintiff's exclusive right to:

- (A) Reproduce its Works in copies, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1) and 501;
- (B) Distribute copies of the Works to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease or lending, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(3) and 501;
- (C) Perform the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4) and 501, by showing the Works' images in any sequence and/or by making the sounds accompanying the Works' audible and transmitting said performance of the work, by means of a device or process, to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definitions of "perform" and "publicly" perform); and
- (D) Display the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(5) and 501, by showing individual images of the works non-sequentially and transmitting said display of the works by means of a device or process to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definition of "publicly" display).

60. Defendant's infringements were committed "willfully" within the meaning of 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- (A) Permanently enjoin Defendant from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's copyrighted Works;
- (B) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the digital media files relating to Plaintiff's Works from each of the computers under Defendant's possession, custody or control;
- (C) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the infringing copies of the Works Defendant has on computers under Defendant's possession, custody or control;
- (D) Award Plaintiff statutory damages per infringed work pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §

504(a) and (c);

(E) Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

(F) Grant Plaintiff any other and further relief this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: February 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Dawn M. Sciarrino
Dawn M. Sciarrino, Esq.
Va. Bar No. 34149
Attorney for Strike 3 Holdings, LLC
Sciarrino & Shubert, PLLC
330 Franklin Road
Ste. 135A-133
Brentwood, TN 37027-3280
T: 202-280-2504
F: 202-217-3929
E-mail: civil@sciarrinolaw.com